

Message Text

SECRET POSS DUPE

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52

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 RSR-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 IO-12 DPW-01 SR-02 ORM-03 AID-20 T-03 OMB-01

/122 W

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R 120927 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 466

INFO CINCPAC

USSAG

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 2209

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT CB

SUBJ: GENERAL LON NON ON POLITICAL UNREST, REFUGEES AND
PROSPECTS FOR NEGOTIATIONS

1. SUMMARY: IN CONVERSATION WITH POL- MIL COUNSELOR,
MINISTER ATTACHED TO INTERIOR BRIGADIER GENERAL LON NON
PRESENTED HIS VIEWS ON CURRENT POLITICAL UNREST IN PHNOM
PENH AND PROSPECTS FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE KI, WHICH
AT THIS MOMENT SEEM TO BE COMPETING WITH THE REFUGEE AND
RALLIER PROGRAMS FOR HIS ATTENTION. HE NOW ACCEPTS
GREATER LIKELIHOOD THAT KI " GHOST LEADERS" ARE ALIVE AND
SEES THE NEED OF THEIR OBTAINING CONSENSUS OF SUBORDINATE
COMMANDERS AS PRINCIPAL IMPEDIMENT TO NEGOTIATIONS.
END SUMMARY.

2. POLITICAL MILITARY COUNSELOR CALLED ON LON NON ON
MARCH 10 TO EXPLAIN EMBASSY' S BELIEF (EARLIER SET FORTH
IN A LETTER TO THE MINISTER) THAT HIS PLANS FOR A 600
MILLION RIEL PROGRAM TO BUILD MODEL VILLAGES FOR REFUGEES
WOULD IMPOSE AN UNACCEPTABLE BURDEN ON THE 1973 BUDGET.

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LON NON SAID HE ACCEPTED THE EMBASSY' S REASONING AND WOULD LIMIT THE PROGRAM TO ONE OR TWO PILOT VILLAGES RATHER THAT THE FORTY ORIGINALLY COMTEMPLATED. ALTHOUGH HE OFFERED NO FIGURES, LON NON INDICATED THAT THE RALLIER PROGRAM IS PROCEEDING SATISFACTORILY AND SAID HE HAS PURCHASED LAND OUTSIDE PHNOM PENH TO BUILD A RETRAINING CENTER FOR 200-300 RALLIERS.

3. LON NON NOTED THAT HE WAS PREOCCUPIED WITH SETTTLING THE TEACHER AND STUDENT STRIKES. HE HAD BEEN ENGAGED IN TALKS WITH DELEGATIONS FROM BOTH ORGANIZATIONS AND FELT SETTLEMENT IS NEAR. HE BELIEVED STRIKERS WERE GENERALLY WELL MOTIVATED ALTHOUGH THE TEACHER' S ORGANIZATION CONTAINS PRO- COMMUNIST LEADERS, FROM WHOM IT IS NECESSARY TO DRAW AWAY THE RANK AND FILE.

4. LON NON SAID HIS DOUBTS THAT " GHOST" KI LEADERS KHIEU SAMPHAN, HOU YUON AND HU NIM ARE ALIVE HAVE BEEN LESSENED BY RECENT INTELLIGENCE REPORTS THAT THEY HAVE ESTABLISHED AN ELABORATE HEADQUARTERS IN THE MOUNTAINS ABOVE AMLEANG. (AS ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS, LON NON INDICATED THAT THIS INFORMATION WAS " TOO SENSITIVE" TO SHARE WITH THE FANK GENERAL STAF F, AS WOULD BE REQUIRED TO OBTAIN AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE.) LON NON ALSO NOTED THAT KHIEU SAMPAN' S MOTHER HAS DISAPPEARED FROM HER HOME IN KOMPONG CHAM AND MAY HAVE JOINED HER SON.

5. THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT THE INSURGENT LEADERS ARE MOVING AWAY FROM THE VIETNAMESE, LON NON CONTINUED, AND THEY HAVE ALWAYS BEEN AT OPPOSITE POLES TO SIHANOUK. HE BELIEVED THEY MAY NOW BE AMENABLE TO TALKS AND CITED AS THE MAJOR OBSTACLE TO THEIR UNDERTAKING NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GKR THE NEED TO OBTAIN AGREEMENT FROM THE COMMANDERS OF THE MANY DISPARATE UNITS WHICH MAKE UP THEIR FORCES.

6. COMMENT: WE ARE UNABLE TO EVALUATE LON NON' S INTELLIGENCE. HE HAS SOURCES CLOSE TO THE INSURGENTS, INCLUDING KHIEU SAMPHAN' S BROTHER, BUT HIS AVERSION TO SHARING INFORMATION WITH OTHER GKR ENTITIES MAKES CORROBORATION DIFFICULT. HIS INFORMATION REINFORCES IN SOME INSTANCES AND CONTRADICTS IN OTHERS THAT RECEIVED FROM SOURCES CLOSE TO THE PRIME MINISTER. THIS CONVERSATION IS ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE BROAD SPECTRUM OF AC-
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TIVITIES LON NON IS NOW EMBRACING.
SWANK

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*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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